

EXHIBITOR - HARRISON

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MATURITY - SPRINGFIELD



# Abraham Lincoln Before 1860

Elector for Harrison, 1840

Excerpts from newspapers and other  
sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



# THE OLD SOLDIER.

SPRINGFIELD, FEBRUARY 1, 1840.

## NATIONAL NOMINATIONS.

FOR PRESIDENT,

**GEN. WM. H. HARRISON,**

OF OHIO.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT,

**GOV. JOHN TYLER,**

OF VIRGINIA.

FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS

B. S. MORRIS, of Cook County;

S. D. MARSHALL, of Gallatin;

E. B. WEBB, of White;

C. WALKER, of McDonough;

A. LINCOLN, of Sangamon.

**“One Presidential Term,—the Integrity of the Public Servants,—the Safety of the Public Money,—and the general good of the People.”**

The “OLD SOLDIER” will be published the 1st and 15th of every month, until the 1st of November next, on a medium sheet, for Fifty cents, always in advance, except when responsible individuals become responsible for twenty numbers, and upwards, (for the reason that the 50 cents will barely defray the expense of publication, consequently the losses, and expense of collection would fall on a few individuals not to be benefitted in a pecuniary point of view by its publication.)

← All communications addressed to S. FRANCIS & CO. Publishers, post paid, will receive prompt attention.

## To our Subscribers and Friends.

We wish it distinctly understood, in the outset of our undertaking, that it is *no money speculation*. In common with our fellow citizens of the West, we know and feel that a reform in the administration of the Government, is absolutely necessary; and to effect this, we have volunteered our services in laying before the good people of Illinois facts, and a full and fair comparison of the relative merits of the two candidates now before the people, for the next Presidency.

We have fixed a price, for the publication,

## To the Reader.

It is proper in the commencement of our undertaking, to announce the principle which we shall be governed in conducting this paper. In the first place, we are thoroughly convinced of the goodness of the cause we advocate, and we shall not descend to the vantage ground of truth, and either to imitate or impute an adverse good men lose character by keeping company with bad ones, so a just cause, for reasons, may lose their power by being mingled with error and falsehood.

We propose therefore, while we shall lessly expose corruption, and resist temptations of power, to employ only the weapons of truth and reason, and we rejoice that these are at our command, that the people of the country has shown, how poor may become where the great body of people are at once the judges of the competitors in the strife. With the confidence and these arms, we enter the contest.

We intend to advocate the election of W. H. HARRISON to the Presidency. The reasons of this choice will be published in the columns of this paper; and the reasons are to be found in the character of the man, established during a long life of service, in the goodness of his principles, in the school of Washington, a history of the country, illustrated and sustained by his wisdom and his valor.

It is upon him to restore the country to its prosperity, because he is, to use Mr. Harrison's standard, “honest and capable” to rely upon him to administer the government faithfully, because his life, has been a commentary upon his devotion to the nation. We rely upon him to maintain the glory of the Republic, because at home and abroad, in the public councils and on the field, he has made that glory our boast.

We have ever trusted in the calm and judicious judgment of the People. And when the eyes of the wise and good are turned with painful anxiety upon the “sign





# ATTENTION! THE PEOPLE!!

**A. LINCOLN, ESQ'R.,**  
OF Sangamon County, one of the *Electoral Candidates*, will ADDRESS the  
**PEOPLE.**

**This Evening !!**

At Early Candlelighting, at the **OLD COURT ROOM,** (Riley's Building.)

By request of

**MANY CITIZENS.**

Thursday, April 9th, 1840.

Detail From a Painting by R. M. Root. © by the Artist.

Lincoln as a Political Speaker. An engraving.

#### The "Long Nine."

The canvass of 1840 was Mr. Lincoln's last campaign for the legislature. Feeling that he had had enough honor out of the office, he probably aspired for a place of more distinction. Jesse B. Thomas, one of the men who had represented the Democratic side in the great debate in the Presbyterian church, in a speech at the courthouse during this campaign, indulged in some fun at the expense of the "Long Nine," reflecting somewhat more on Lincoln than the rest. The latter was not present, but being apprised by his friends of what had been said hastened to the meeting, and soon after Thomas closed stepped upon the platform and responded. The substance of his speech on this occasion was not so memorable as the manner of its delivery.

He felt the sting of Thomas' allusions, and for the first time, on the stump or in public, resorted to mimicry for effect. In this, as will be seen later along, he was without a rival. He imitated Thomas in gesture and voice, at times caricaturing his walk and the very motion of his body. Thomas, like everybody else, had some peculiarities of expression and gesture, and these Lincoln succeeded in rendering more prominent than ever. The crowd yelled and cheered as he continued. Encouraged by these demonstrations, the ludicrous features of the speaker's performance gave way to intense and scathing ridicule. Thomas, who was obliged to sit near by and endure the pain of this unique ordeal, was ordinarily sensitive, but the exhibition goaded him to desperation. He was so thoroughly wrought up with suppressed emotion that he actually gave way to tears.

He was selected as an elector on the Harrison ticket for president in 1840, and as such stumped over a good portion of the state. In debate he frequently met Douglas, who had already become the standard bearer and exponent of Democratic principles. These joint meetings were spirited affairs sometimes, but at no time did he find the Little Giant averse to a conflict. "He was very sensitive," relates one of his colleagues on the stump, "where he thought he had failed to meet the expectations of his friends."

### LOVED HIS FELLOW MEN.

Eloquent in His Own Peculiar Style in the Use of Forceful Saxon Monosyllables—Most Popular Whig Member of the House—Always Used the Subjunctive.

Mr. Lincoln was already a distinguished character in Illinois when I came to the State in 1837. When the Legislature met for the first time in Springfield, the new capital of the State, in the fall of 1839, I was present for two days, but Mr. Lincoln did not make himself conspicuous while I was there. In the summer following, however, during the Presidential "Hard Cider" campaign, Mr. Lincoln canvassed the State effectively in behalf of General William Henry Harrison, and it was when he visited Mount Carmel, the county seat of Wabash County, that I became personally acquainted with him. His first address was delivered in the courthouse in the afternoon when there were a number of women in the audience. He was tall and rather ungainly in appearance, but dignified and eloquent in his own peculiar style in the use of forceful Saxon monosyllables. His speech in the evening was made to a houseful of men and boys, when he seemed to let himself down to their level, pouring forth a torrent of witticisms and anecdotes which aroused the wildest bursts of applause. Being a member of the opposing party I did not join in the hilarity, but I could not but admire the skill, humor, and fairness of his platitudes, and when I met him afterward I was charmed by his unostentatious deportment and genial manners.

In the fall of 1840 I went to Springfield and spent the winter there, acting during a portion of the time as assistant enrolling clerk of the Senate. In my official connection with a number of subsequent Legislatures of Illinois and a visitor to others, I can think of none which surpassed that of 1840 in the number of brilliant men. Harder was the most active Whig member in the House, but Lincoln was more popular because of his uniform courtesy. While Douglas, then Secretary of State, was extremely positive in all his assertions of facts, Lincoln always used the subjunctive. He would say: "If you will examine the record of such a date or on such a page I think you will find this to be true," never closing the door so that an opponent could not contest his position without questioning his veracity.


When President Taylor died in 1850 Mr. Lincoln was requested to deliver an obituary address at South Market Hall in Chicago. Three o'clock in the afternoon was the time set for the address. About twenty minutes before the hour set I called upon him at his hotel. I found him sitting alone on the sidewalk on the shady side of the hotel, which stood where the Sherman House now stands. There was no committee there to escort him to the hall, and after a few minutes' conversation he remarked that it was about time to go to the hall. He was simply dressed in his traveling suit, and we walked to the hall together, I having the honor of being his only escort. There were some 200 or 300 people assembled to hear him. He made an unpretentious address, giving a sketch of the life and service of Zachary Taylor and closed it with a somewhat dramatic pronouncement of the entire poem so often quoted by him: "O, why should the spirit of mortal be proud?"

Like Ben Adham, he loved his fellow-men.

A. J. GALLOWAY.

Chicago Tribune  
2/12/1900





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